

---

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Environmental and Development Services Committee</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b> 10
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> November 2004</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b> <b>DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Deputy Chief Executive</b>	<b>OPEN</b> <b>PARAGRAPH NO:</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>Marilyn Hallard, Design and Conservation Officer, x5747</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Historic Environment Champions</b>	<b>REF: 13.1</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS04</b>

---

## **1.0 Recommendation**

- 1.1 That a Design Champion be appointed to promote good design in South Derbyshire in line with the aims of the Council for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and
- 1.2 That a Historic Environment Champion be appointed to promote the protection of the historic built environment of South Derbyshire in line with the aims of English Heritage.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to consider whether the Authority should appoint Design & Heritage Champions.
- 2.2 There is a strong inter-relationship between the historic environment and the quality of design of new buildings and public spaces. Delivering these qualities requires strong local leadership so English Heritage and CABE are looking for elected Members, ideally chairs of policy committees, to take up these roles.

## **3.0 Executive summary**

- 3.1 It is now widely accepted across local government that good design in buildings and public spaces enhances both the existing high quality built environments and contributes to the regeneration of run down areas. Local authorities play a fundamental role in caring for and managing England's historic environment as well as delivering quality design within the built environment.

- 3.2 The appointment of elected Members as Historic Environment and Design Champions can help focus minds and ensure that design and historic environment issues, in both urban and rural areas, are placed firmly on the agenda of the local authority.
- 3.3 The key point in making this project work is to establish integrated corporate thinking – seeing the heritage and design potential in the policies of parks, property and planning departments of the Authority – and to ensure that the historic environment is taken fully into account in the development of plans and strategies of the Authority and its partner bodies.

#### **4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 English Heritage and CABE believe that appointing Historic and Design Champions can lead to significant benefits for a local authority and its community. The key objective for the elected members nominated to act as Champions will be to work to ensure that the historic environment and design issues play a central role in the development of all local authority policies and strategies. Developing a close working relationship between the two roles will ensure that the authority has a seamless and coherent approach to the built and historic environment.
- 4.2 The role descriptions and key purposes of Historic and Design Champions can be found appended at Annexe 'A'.
- 4.3 English Heritage are currently in discussions with CABE with regard to joint training events aimed at both types of Champions. They have also produced a comprehensive training programme (HELM:Historic Environment–Local Management) which aims to improve planning, land management, economic and social development decisions that impact on the historic environment. The training will be delivered via distance learning, training seminars, courses and a suite of guidance papers accessible via CD-Rom or at [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk). The website has a searchable database of case studies, illustrating good practice in the historic environment. It is hoped this will inspire more imaginative and appropriate solutions to the management and development of historic places.
- 4.4 Although no training has been scheduled for the Design Champions so far there is further reading material available that can be ordered free from [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk). - these include titles such as Better Civic Buildings and Spaces, Building in Context : New Developments in Historic Areas, Councillors Guide to Urban Design and Local Leadership for Better Public Places.
- 4.5 Several seminar dates have been scheduled in recent months which includes a HELM Seminar for Chief Executives and Elected Members on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2004 in Birmingham (no venue/booking details have been given as yet). This is intended to give an overview of the HELM

project, the work of English Heritage and the role of the Local Authority Historic Environment Champion. Further details can be found at [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk) on their Training and Course List pages.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The majority of resources from English Heritage and CABE are available free of charge and can be ordered from their prospective websites.
- 5.2 There are no indications as to training costs at present as the training programme is still in its initial stages, however these could be funded from current Member Training Budgets if they arise.

## **6.0 Community Implications**

- 6.1 The Government, English Heritage and CABE believe that appointing Champions can help local authorities in their pursuit of social, economic and environmental goals
- 6.2 Being aware of the value of our historic and built environments can help deliver better services, promote value for money by reducing lifetime costs of buildings and improving their performance, help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by creating spaces that foster community ownership and promote more environmentally friendly ways of living.

## **7.0 Background Papers**

- 7.1 Letter from English Heritage 31.08.2004, File Ref 13.1

